

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A statement showing statewide number of sugar factories remained closed during the 1996-97 season as per information available upto 30-6-1997 is enclosed.

(b) to (e) The closures could be due to variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, size, age and condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation and many other factors. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare scheme for reopening/rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions.

Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

Statement

State-wise Number of Sugar Factories remained closed during the 1996-97 Season as per information available upto 30.6.1997

Sl. No	States	No. of Factories
1.	Punjab	2
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2
4.	Gujarat	3
5.	Maharashtra	12
6.	Bihar	11
7.	Assam	1
8.	Andhra Pradesh	5
9.	Karnataka	4
10.	Tamil Nadu	1
11.	Kerala	2
12.	Orissa	1
13.	Nagaland	1

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Casualty of BSF

1031. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSF jawans killed by the extremists in North Eastern States particularly in Manipur during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to prevent the killings of BSF jawans;

(c) the number of BSF jawans killed in Manipur in the third week of May, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide livelihood to the dependents, family members of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) During 1994, 1995 and 1996 a total of 24 BSF personnel were killed in the North East Region including 2 in Manipur. During 1997 (upto July 23) 11 BSF personnel (all in Manipur) have been killed by the extremists.

(b) Steps taken to prevent killings of BSF jawans include, inter alia, reiteration of standard operating procedure, briefing by commanders at all levels, disposal of mines and improvised explosive devices by explosives experts, search of areas before movement of troops and reiteration of prescribed counter-ambush drill.

(c) Eleven.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to provide livelihood to the dependents, family members of the deceased include, inter alia, award of liberalised pension, ex-gratia grant of Rs. 2 lakhs, provision of employment in Groups 'C' and 'D' posts upto 5% of the existing vacancies in the BSF, setting up of Re-settlement Directorate for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the widows or next-of-kin of the deceased, encashment of GPF, leave, DCRG benefits under Group Insurance as per admissibility. State Governments of the North Eastern States also sanction additional ex-gratia at varying rates.

Industrial Food Parks

1032. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up 'Industrial Food Parks' in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such parks to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith their locations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up industrial food parks on its own. However, the Ministry operates a plan scheme for providing assistance to joint sector/assisted sector undertakings, cooperatives and private sector undertakings, etc. for setting up of Industrial Food Parks in the country. The scheme is not either location specific or State-specific. The number of such parks to be assisted during the IXth Five Year Plan has not been fixed and it would depend upon the number of feasible proposals received and allocation of funds made for the Ministry.

[English]

Sugar Mills in Karnataka

1033. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for starting sugar mills in Karnataka cleared during 1996-97, private sector and co-operative sector-wise;

(b) the number of applications rejected indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of levy sugar procured in Karnataka during the said period; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to reduce the levy on sugar with a view to improve the financial health of the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) During sugar year 1996-97 (October-September) upto 30.6.97, 8 letters of intent were granted for setting up of new sugar mills, 5 in private and 3 in cooperative sector and 22 applications were prima-facie rejected in the State of Karnataka. The prima-facie rejection letters were issued mainly on the grounds ranging from locational angle and/or non-availability of sugarcane, capacity constraints, etc.

(c) As on 15.6.97, a total quantity of 0.54 lakh tonnes of levy sugar has been produced by the sugar mills of the Karnataka State for distribution under Public Distribution System and armed forces/para-military forces

during 1996-97 season (October-September). The Ministry does not procure sugar from sugar mills but allocates a part of total production for distribution in PDS for armed/para-military forces to be lifted directly by them against release orders.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to change the prevailing ratio of 40:60 between the levy & free sale sugar. However, to boost up sugar production in the initial period of the ensuing season, it has been decided to allow early crushing incentive for the period 1st October to 15th November, 1997 by way of higher free sale quota at the rate of 72% of the production.

Wood Based Industries

1034. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Rajeshwar Committee report which inter alia say that 2.82 lakh trees are felled annually in the North East region to satiate the demands in wood-based industries in that region;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such industries functioning there;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put a stop on these activities and to shift those industries as per recommendations of Rajeshwar Committee; and

(d) the time by which all these industries are likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Rajeshwar Committee has estimated that the wood-based industries in North-East Region, to run at their viable capacity, would required felling of 2,82,397 trees per annum. In addition, it has stated that large scale transportation of logs and vaneers also takes place outside the North-East Region. The Committee has observed that such sustained large scale felling of trees would result in a serious environmental and ecological imbalance in the region, with far reaching consequences to the Nation as a whole. Accordingly, it has recommended to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that ban on fellings of trees in all the forests in North-East may continue until further review.

The Committee has indicated that there are 1228 saw mills, 291 saw-cum-vaneer units and 77 plywood factories in North-East Region.

(c) and (d) The report and recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.